

BOOK REVIEWS

La Blennorrhagie. By Pierre Durel. 1949. Paris: Masson et Cie. 2,200 fr. 649 pages.

This book, written in French, deals very thoroughly with every aspect of gonorrhoea, in both male and female. It is extremely well written and is divided into four sections, that on laboratory examinations being very up-to-date and including the latest modern research. For the first time, I believe, in any textbook there is a photomicrograph of the gonococcus as seen through the electronic microscope.

The second section, which deals with the clinical aspects of the infection, includes some interesting theories regarding infection of the cervix uteri and the production of cervical erosions. In the section dealing with treatment, the descriptions of operative technique, especially the various methods of electrocoagulation, are most detailed. There has been much painstaking work devoted to this part of the book. The final section deals with the modern sociological and legal aspects of the disease.

The text is amply illustrated by some 279 drawings and photographs. This book is well worth a place in the library of all venereologists. W. N. M.

Atlas der Haut- und Geschlechtskrankheiten. By Walther Freihoes and Walther Schoenfeld. 1949. Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart. D.M. 66

This atlas of skin and venereal diseases contains 428 illustrations, of which 343 are representations of the commoner skin diseases and the remainder are devoted to venereal diseases, principally syphilis. Most of the illustrations are taken from colour photographs, and there are a few black-and-white prints. The pictures, on the whole, are faithful copies, but here and there, one finds that the colours printed in the atlas give the skin a somewhat unnatural hue, with yellow tints unduly prominent in a substantial minority of the reproductions. Nevertheless, many of the prints are remarkably life-like and a few are outstandingly so, e.g., Fig. 211 illustrating subacute lupus erythematosus.

The choice of skin photographs has been good, and illustrations of the very rare dermatoses or bizarre varieties of the common skin diseases have wisely been avoided. In view, however, of the increasing rarity in present day British practice of the later manifestations of syphilis, thanks to penicillin and other anti-luetic drugs, the atlas would be improved if more space had been given to syphilis. Some of the reproductions devoted to syphilis are poor, in particular those illus-

trating the roseolar syphilide and the maculo-papular rash in early syphilis. Both these figures would be of greater value if they were on a larger scale and showed the general distribution and character of the rash.

The text, which is in German, gives a brief clinical description of the conditions illustrated and there is a very brief discussion of treatment. A novel feature is the large number of dermatographs or "finger-prints" of the common (and several rare) dermatoses. These apart from the inevitable palm-print of Darier's disease, are not made use of in Great Britain as much as they might be.

One hesitates to say for whom the atlas is designed. The fully-fledged dermatologist will be familiar with all the skin diseases represented therein, and ought to be familiar with many more clinical varieties of the venereal diseases than the atlas presents to him. The venereologist, too, will find it inadequate. The budding venereologist or dermatologist should learn from the patient and *never* from an atlas, and the same is true of the undergraduate. There remains only the general practitioner, and the reviewer thinks that it is the doctor in a busy practice who may derive the most help from this publication—even if his German is rusty—in the absence of an up-to-date English equivalent. E. J. M.

Lehrbuch der Haut- und Geschlechtskrankheiten. By Walther Schoenfeld. 1949. Fifth edition. Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart. 179 black-and-white and 16 coloured illustrations. D.M. 24.

That this textbook of Dermatology and Venereology is already in its fifth edition indicates its popularity in Germany. It is a well-written book, and should be readily followed by the student of dermatology and venereology. The print and paper are of good quality, and so are the black and white pictures, which illustrate to the reader the majority of common and uncommon conditions. These illustrations contribute greatly to the value of the book, because good pictures are sometimes better than the best descriptions of a skin or a venereal condition. The general section of the book deals with anatomy, physiology, and the pathology of the skin. This is followed by a description of a routine examination of a skin case. The special section is divided into two parts, one dealing with dermatology, the other with venereology. The dermatological section deals exhaustively with all common and uncommon dermatoses, and the student can find much useful information. A valuable chapter on treatment reflects the traditional school of German dermatology, and new ways of